



Spalding
Urban District Council

REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
to the
Spalding Urban District
for the
Year 1950

Public Health Officers of the Spalding Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health :

J. R. MUNRO, M.D.

Public Health Officer :

L. A. GORNALL, F.I.A.S.S., M.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector :

F. LUKER, M.S.I.A.

**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1950**

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Spalding Urban District.

I beg to hand you my Report for 1950.

Area in Acres	7,825
Resident Population (Census April, 1951)	14,439
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1950)	4,343
Rateable Value	£73,228
Product of Penny Rate	£285 2 2.28

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.				M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	104	104	208
Illegitimate	...	...	...	6	9	15
Total				110	113	223
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population				...	...	15.1
Birth Rate for England and Wales				...	...	15.8

Still Births.				M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	2	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
Total				1	2	3

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

				M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	3	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
Total				5	3	8

Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age.

				M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	3	4

Deaths.

				M.	F.	Total
				108	95	203
Death Rate per 1,000 Population				...	...	13.0
Death Rate England and Wales				...	...	11.6
Deaths from Cancer, all ages				...	...	27

SPALDING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. Medical Officer of Health (part time), J. R. Munro, M.D.
2. Public Health Officer, L. A. Gornall, F.I.A.S., M.R.S.I.
3. Meat Inspector, F. Luker, M.S.I.A.
4. Assistant Sanitary Inspector, R. H. Grainger, A.R.S.I.

I. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENTS

During the year the undermentioned work was carried out :—

(a) Closet Accommodation.

Vaults converted and connected to Public Sewer ...	2
Vaults converted and connected to Cesspools	4
Water Closets discharging into River taken off and connected to Public Sewer	3
Cesspools abolished and connected to Public Sewer ...	2

(b) Sewerage Improvements.

Mains Sewerage — St. Paul's Housing Site.

1. The Contract of St. Paul's Estate Extension No. 1 provided 750 yards of C.I. sewer to serve approximately 120 houses of future development.

2. Willesby Road — Temporary Housing Site.

Here the existing sewer was extended and altered to provide drainage facilities on this site for Temporary dwellings.

II. PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of refuse has been carried out on modern lines by mechanical low-loading freighters. Collection has been weekly for dwelling houses and three times weekly in the case of Hotels and Food premises.

In view of the continued growth to the built-up area and the corresponding increase in bulk refuse, it has been found necessary to purchase an additional refuse freighter. We are awaiting delivery.

(a) House Refuse—Dust Bins.

Surveys to ascertain the type and condition of receptacle in use have continued throughout the year. Some improvement was noted with regard to the refuse receptacles at domestic property and during the year 15 Statutory Notices were served. In all cases provision by the owners of Dustbins to B.S.S. No. 792/1940 resulted. The condition with regard to refuse receptacles at business premises was not so satisfactory, trouble primarily being the number of bins required to obviate over-spilling during periods of fluctuation in the quantity of refuse stored. Wherever possible this difficulty was overcome by mutual arrangement and an additional collection, particularly with regard to Food Premises.

(b) Controlled Tipping.

Bulk incombustible material is “controlled tipped” at the Local Authority Pit. This pit, of recent acquisition, has greatly reduced the difficulties of disposal of such incombustible refuse.

Unfortunately vacant pits, suitable for tipping are almost extinct within the Urban District and although it is estimated that this pit at the present rate of tipping will serve a further 10 years, a permanent solution for the future must be found.

(c.) Bulb Deposits and Nursery Waste.

The problem of Nurserymen in disposing of waste material of trade is most acute within the area. The large quantity of waste resulting from this industry, and the indiscriminate tipping of same by bulb growers requires careful consideration by the growers concerned.

I am of the opinion that with the absence of suitable pits, a more permanent solution in the form of an incinerator should be aimed at. The Bulb Growers' Association should be the Organising Authority.

(d) **Salvage.**

The salvage of materials required by industry has been energetically carried out and the sale of such salvaged materials realized for the year as under :

	£	s.	d
Waste Paper	2,259	2	10
Tins, &c.	361	0	10
Ferrous and Non Ferrous Metals	29	18	9
Rags, String, &c.	127	19	11
Total	£2,778	2	4

This represents a saving of a 9d. rate.

III. DISINFESTATION

During the year 6 cases of bed bug infestation were dealt with. Treatment with " Zaldecide " and " D.D.T. " produced satisfactory results and in only one case did re-infestation result.

IV. HOUSING STATISTICS

1. (a) Total number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts ... 96
- (b) Number of inspections made for this purpose 205
2. (a) Number of dwellings (included under subhead 1)¹ which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regs., 1925 6
- (b) Number of Inspections made 15
3. (a) Number of dwellinghouses so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for Human Habitation 7
(3 of these houses have since been demolished and 2 closed under Housing Acts 1936 and 1949).
4. Number of dwellings not in all respects fit for human habitation (exclusive sub-head 3) 31

V. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING YEAR BY INFORMAL ACTION

Number rendered fit by Informal Action ... 52

VI. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING YEAR 1950

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were
served requiring Repairs 1
2. Number of dwellings rendered fit in all respects as
a result 1

B. Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwellings in respect of which notices
were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 3
2. Number of dwellings in which defects were
remedied as a result :
 - (a) By Owners 3
 - (b) By Local Authority (in default) Nil

C. Proceedings under Section 11 & 13 Housing Act, 1936 Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil

The 3 houses referred to under Sub-head (3a) were
demolished by informal arrangement with the owners.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act 36 and Section 3 H.A. 49.

Number of separate tenements or underground
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 2

VII. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV. (OVERCROWDING)

Everything possible has been done during the year to relieve overcrowding but as the solution is governed by the supply of additional houses, very little could be done. Preference has been given to cases of overcrowding in the letting of new and converted council houses.

Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	47
Number of persons concerned	319
Dwellings which have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps to abate same	2

VIII. SWIMMING POOL

The Swimming Pool was again used by the Local Swimming Pool Committee who encouraged participation by the younger generation. The Education Committee also utilised this service and swimming instruction was arranged by them for school children from Spalding and District.

Bacteriological sampling was carried out twice weekly and daily checks for Chlorine content were carried out.

Breakpoint Chlorination is practiced. The extensive plant alterations, comprising the installation of straining, filtration, heating and chlorination have proved most effective and all Bacteriological examination samples have proved "Highly Satisfactory."

SECTION " E "

A. Clean Food Campaign.

Attempts have continued to bring home the vital importance of clean food production and distribution to all food handlers.

During the year a further 6 premises were approved, and the occupiers registered as participants in the Clean Food Scheme.

The principal difficulty confronting would-be participants is the structural nature of their premises, many of which are of extremely "rare vintage" making the hygiene requirements of the Code of Practice unattainable. Notwithstanding, however, much work has been done and at all times full co-operation by the Food handlers has been experienced.

It has been noted that the general public to a large extent have proved apathetic to Clean Food. The additional expense entailed by some shopkeepers to protect the public by extra wrapping of food commodities and the resultant slight price increase has proved a further deterrent.

A Film Show on this and allied subjects was arranged, but the attendance was not encouraging.

B. Milk Supply.

The major quantity of the milk consumed in the area is produced in surrounding districts and pasteurised at two bottling establishments in adjoining Rural areas.

The premises of the 6 Retail Purveyors within the District have been inspected and close surveillance has been maintained regarding the cleanliness of the utensils and transport.

C. Food Preparing Premises (Section 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938).

During the year all Food preparing premises registered under Sec. 14 Food and Drugs Act, 1938, together with those of Hotels, Bakehouses, Fish Friers and Restaurant Kitchens have been inspected.

Action was deemed necessary with regard to 2 cases of sub-standard cleanliness.

D. Ice Cream.

During the year 15 additional retailers have been registered under Sec. 14 Food and Drugs Act 38 for storage and sale of Ice Cream.

Close supervision has been maintained over the 47 registered purveyors within the Urban District. The preference noted, for the Factory Prepacked commodity continues and wherever possible retailers are advised not to accept the ' loose ice cream ' from their suppliers.

Whereas conditions at registered premises are satisfactory and controllable, one case where cleanliness was not of a high standard occurred in relation to a mobile van retailer. In this instance, however, correspondence had the desired effect.

E. Inspection of Foodstuffs.

During the year the undermentioned foodstuffs were inspected and condemned as unfit for human consumption :

Apple Jelly	2 tins	Onions (Pickled)	1 jar
Apricots	1 jar	Pickles (Mixed)	16 jars
Beans	56 tins	Peas	74 tins
Biscuits	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Plums	67 tins
Beef Sausage	27 lbs.	Pate Foie	1 tin
Bacon	60 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Parsnips	17 tins
Bulberries	2 tins	Pears	1 tin
Carrots	6 tins	Peaches	1 tin
Cod Roe Spread	12 tins	Pilchards	4 tins
Cherries	19 tins	Puddings (Xmas)	3
Coffee	1 tin	Puddings (Suet)	48
Crawfish	2 tins	Prunes	10 tins
Cheese	4 lbs.	Peel (Candied)	10 lbs.
Cheese (Pkts. Gruyere)	146 pkts.	Pork Sausage	12 lbs.
Cake (Irish Gateux) ...	55	Pork (Danish)	10 lbs.
Egg (Frozen)	1 cwt.	Rabbit (Aust.)	4 tins
Fish Paste	2 jars	Salmon G III	2 tins
Fish (wet)	12 st.	Salmon G I	1 tin
Flour (Coconut)	5 lbs.	Sardines	60 tins
Flour (Ginger)	14 lbs.	Snoek in Tomato	8 tins
Figs (Dried)	16 lbs.	Soup	6 tins
Gooseberries	10 tins	Spaghetti	46 tins
Grapefruit	1 tin	Salad Cream	20 bots.
Greengages	4 tins	Sugar	183 lbs.
Herrings	20 tins	Shallots	29 tons
Herrings (Fresh)	7 st.	Steak	2 tins
Ham	25 lbs.	Tea	13 lbs.
Ices (Choc.)	41 doz.	Tomatoes	77 tins
Milk Evaporated	275 tins	Tomato Juice	2 tins
Milk (Condensed)	23 tins	Tomato Ketchup	8 bots.
Marmalade	1 tin	Tongues Lamb	3 tins
Mustard	2 tins	Tongues Ox	2 tins
Meat in Gravy (S.A.) ...	20 tins	Veal Loaf	2 tins
Meat Paste	5 jars	Veal Jellied	8 tins
Meat (Luncheon)	8 tins		

X. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

1. Common Lodging Houses.

Throughout the year, all registered Common Lodging Houses were inspected at irregular intervals.

Once case of insufficient sanitary and washing accommodation was rectified by the construction of a new ablution and sanitary block.

Three cases of bedbug and flea infestation were found and treatment with D.D.T. proved effective, but in all other Houses conditions were up to standard for this class of accommodation.

2. Moveable Dwellings.

The L.A. provided an additional site for Moveable Dwellings. The site provided for 12 dwellings and all services were provided.

The L.A. have now provided two sites containing 30 such dwellings, and the development of two further sites is in progress. It has been found that the provision of these Sites, besides greatly assisting the acute housing problem, has done much to prevent the indiscriminate siting of caravans and such like structures throughout the countryside.

XI. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The above Act necessitated the appointment of a full time Rodent Operator. This Authority has in the past carried out Rodent work, but the appointment of a full time operator acting under the Chief Sanitary Inspector has led to a greater and more thorough coverage of the area.

Much work has been done, particularly the "Black spots" such as grain warehouses and properties abutting on the river, which runs through the centre of the town. During the year 104 treatments were carried out and 175 bodies were recovered. The nature of these properties and the harbourage afforded to rats makes the pick up of bodies bear only a slight indication to the effectiveness of these treatments.

XII. SCABIES

No cases of scabies or verminous heads were reported during the year. The facilities of the Cleansing station remained available, but it has now been arranged for the termination of this Joint Scheme as it now appears to have fully served its purpose. In its new guise the Cleansing Station will remain for any local treatments but all joint responsibility and collective action with adjoining L.A.s will cease.

XIII. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act, one person living under insanitary conditions, being detained by order of the Local Magistrates, for a period of one month.

XIV. HOUSING ACT, 1949 — IMPROVEMENT GRANT

During the year one application under Sec. 20 for a grant towards improvements to a dwelling house was considered.

The Council decided to grant £200, this being 50 per cent. of the estimated cost of the works.

XV. HOUSING ACT, 1949 — DETERMINATION OF CLOSING ORDER

Two Closing Orders were determined under the above Act. Plans and specifications submitted by the owner provided for the improvements required by the L.A. and the works having been duly completed the properties are now occupied.

Signed L. A. GORNALL, F.I.A.S., M.R.S.I.
Public Health Officer

XVI. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

During the year 53 factories were inspected under the relevant Sections of the above Acts. Contraventions to Health Conditions were noted at 5 factories and action taken accordingly.

The existence in my district of an extensive Wholesale and Retail Bulb and Flower Trade, together with its allied occupations has given rise to a distinctive form of "Workplace." In some instances these businesses have extended to such proportions that anything up to 50 or more persons are directly employed.

This class of business at present is not controllable under the Factories Acts, some loose supervision only being administered under Sections 43, 46 and 92, of the Public Health Act 36.

It would appear that these types of premises have not been definitely declared to be Factories within the meaning of Section 151 Factories Act, 1937. I am of the opinion that this nature of trade should be brought within the scope of the Act as more control could be exercised and working conditions substantially improved.

The matter has been taken up with H.M. Inspector of Factories and it is understood that it is under discussion at a "high level."

TABLE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1950

Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	20
Diphtheria	Nil
Erysipelas	4
Measles	418
Pnuemonia	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1

Diphtheric Prophylaxis.

During the year 1950, 187 children were immunised.

Over 5 and under 15 years of age	14
Under 5 years of age	173

Immunisation in relation to Child Population

Under 5 years of age	78.4%
5 — 14 years of age	85.4%

Included in this Report are the following appendices :

Appendix A, Tuberculosis Table.

Appendix B, Causes of Death.

Appendix C, Report of Meat Inspector.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. R. MUNRO.

APPENDIX A. TUBERCULOSIS
Analysis of New Cases and Deaths

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respira- tory.		Non-Respira- tory.		Respira- tory.		Non-Respira- tory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	...
„ 5	...	...	..	...	..	..	...	...
„ 15	1	...	...	..	...	1	...	...
„ 25	...	1	..	1	..	..	...	1
„ 35	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...
„ 45	...	1	..	..	...	1	...	...
„ 55	1	...	..	..	..	1	1	...
„ 65	...	...	..	..	..	..	...	...
„ 80	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...
„
Totals	2	2	0	1	0	3	1	1

APPENDIX B.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1950

Cause of Death	Male	Female
All causes	108	95
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	3
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	0
Measles	1	0
Cancer of Stomach	3	1
Cancer of Lungs	3	0
Cancer of Breast	0	5
Cancer of Uterus	0	2
Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	11	2
Diabetes	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	8	9
Coronary Diseases	3	4
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	0	1
Other Heart Diseases	15	18
Other Circulatory Diseases	10	12
Pneumonia	5	3
Bronchitis	3	0
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0
Ulcer of the Stomach	1	0
Gastritis : Diarrhoea	1	0
Nephritis	1	3
Congenital Malformation	1	0
Other Diseases	29	28
Motor and Vehicle Accidents	3	1
Other Accidents	3	1
Suicide	2	0

APPENDIX C.

MEAT INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1950

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

During the year under review, all home killed meat distributed in the Spalding Urban District has been inspected, animals showing evidence of disease have been examined in detail and the necessary action taken to safeguard the public health. The Ministry of Food officials have again taken advantage of the fact that the meat inspection work of the area is under one inspectorate and in order to facilitate the operation of the meat distribution scheme, have slaughtered all animals at the Mill Green Slaughterhouse. The slaughterhouse at New Bond Street has been retained for emergency purposes.

The numbers of animals inspected are given in the following table together with a detailed list of the disease or condition found.

The total weight of meat and offals condemned as unfit for human food is approximately 25 tons 10 cwts. and this has been disposed of for other purposes under the Ministry of Food Waste Utilisation Scheme.

General working conditions at Mill Green Slaughterhouse and the absence of an adequate drainage system, hot water supply, troughs for washing the equipment and facilities for sterilising wiping cloths, etc., have been the subject of correspondence between the Rural District Council and the Ministry of Food.

Every effort is being made on both sides to ensure that the necessary improvements are carried out as soon as possible.

F. LUKER,
Meat Inspector.

The following table gives the number of animals slaughtered and condemned :—

Class of Animal	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	746	1,402	212	5,433	744
Number inspected	746	1,402	212	5,433	744
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	9	14	17	65
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	1,068		2	168	205
Percentage of car- cases affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	41%		8%	3%	37%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	27	16	—	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	437		1	—	17
Percentage of car- cases affected with Tuberculosis	22%		$\frac{1}{2}\%$	—	2%

Details of the meat condemned and also of other foodstuffs dealt with are contained in the following list.

Article Condemned	Disease or condition found
2 Cow carcasses and offals	Generalised Tuberculosis.
27 Cow carcasses and offals	Unwholesome offals retained.
1 Cow carcase and offals	Generalised Dropsy.
1 Cow carcase and offals	Septic Metritis.
1 Cow carcase and offals	Septic Pericarditis.
1 Cow carcase and offals	Septicæmia.
1 Cow carcase and offals	Pathological emaciation.
16 Carcases of Beef and offals ...	Generalised Tuberculosis.
2 Carcases of Beef and offals ...	Pathological emaciation.
2 Carcases of Beef and offals ...	Generalised Dropsy.
1 Carcase of Beef and offals ...	Pyæmia.
1 Carcase of Beef and offals ...	Multiple Tumours.
1 Carcase of Beef and offals ...	Jaundice.
1 Carcase of Beef and offals ...	Septic Peritonitis.
1 Carcase of Beef and offals ...	Unwholesome ; moribund.

Article Condemned.	Disease or Condition Found.
7 Calf carcasses and offals	Immaturity.
3 Calf carcasses and offals	Emaciation and dropsy.
1 Calf carcass and offals	Rickets and immaturity.
1 Calf carcass and offals	Pyæmia.
1 Calf carcass and offals	Fever and dropsy.
1 Calf carcass and offals	Septic Peritonitis.
21 Part Carcasses of Beef	Injuries, bruising, dropsy, etc.
16 Part carcasses of Beef	Tuberculosis.
5 Part carcasses of Beef	Abscesses.
5 Part carcasses of Beef	Fractures.
4 Part carcasses of Beef	Heated; commencing putrefaction.
1 Part carcass of Beef	Benign Tumour.
1 Part carcass of Beef	Septic Pleurisy.
1235 lbs. Beef Trimmings	Bruised.
366 lbs. Frozen Hindquarter Beef ...	Bone-taint putrefaction.
66 lbs. Bonesless Frozen Beef	Putrefaction.
86 lbs. Boneless Frozen Veal	Putrefaction.
10 Sheep carcasses and offals	Emaciation and dropsy.
2 Sheep carcasses and offals	Septic Pneumonia.
1 Sheep carcass and offals	Septic Peritonitis.
1 Sheep carcass and offals	Gangrene.
1 Sheep carcass and offals	Decomposition.
1 Lamb carcass and offals	Unwholesome ; worried by dog.
1 Lamb carcass and offals	Decomposition.
9 Part Sheep carcasses	Fractures, injuries, abscesses.
36 lbs. Mutton trimmings	Bruised or injured.
221 lbs. Sheeps Mesenteric fats ...	Stale and putrefying.
102 lbs. Boneless Frozen Mutton ...	Tainted.
561 lbs. Hindquarter Mutton	Heated; commencing putrefaction.
31 Pig carcasses and offals	Generalised dropsy.
10 Pig carcasses and offals	Acute Swine Erysipelas.
9 Pig carcasses and offals	Fever and dropsy.
4 Pig carcasses and offals	Chronic arthritis and malnutrition
2 Pig carcasses and offals	Generalised Tuberculosis.
2 Pig carcasses and offals	Jaundice.
2 Pig carcasses and offals	Septic Peritonitis.
2 Pig carcasses and offals	Putrefaction.
1 Pig carcass and offals	Advanced emaciation.
1 Pig carcass and offals	Gangrene.
1 Pig carcass and offals	Rickets and dropsy.
1 Pig carcass and offals	Tuberculosis with emaciation.
1 Pig carcass and offals	Unwholesome ; severe hernia.
1 Pig carcass and offals	Unwholesome ; dead on arrival.
33 Part Pig carcasses	Fractures, injuries, dropsy.
372 lbs. Pork trimmings	Diamonds, bruising, injuries.

The following offals were condemned because of various diseases and conditions, too numerous to set out in detail.

197 Beasts Heads and Tongues.	1 Sheeps Liver.
470 Beasts Lungs.	151 Sheeps Livers.
19 Beasts Hearts.	7 Sheeps Plucks.
740 Beasts Livers.	2 Sheeps Hearts and Lungs.
116 Part Beasts Livers.	11 Pigs Heads.
9 Beasts Spleens.	25 Pigs Feet and Hocks.
29 Beasts Kidneys.	33 Pigs Plucks.
79 Beasts Intestines.	18 Pigs Hearts and Lungs.
9 Beasts Tripes.	40 Pigs Livers.
31 Beasts Thick Skirts.	79 Pigs Kidneys.
116 Beasts Thin Skirts.	27 Pigs Intestines.
2 Calf's Plucks.	6 Sows Udders.
1 Calf's Liver.	

